

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29, please insert the following section heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 32, please insert the following section heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 32 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention thus relates to rubber latex with a reduced allergen activity, to a method for preparing said rubber latex, and to medical and non-medical articles comprising said rubber latex, all in which the rubber latex is combined with starch.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Original claims 1-35 were amended during Chapter II proceedings by substituting new claims 1-26 in a letter dated July 5, 2001. Please cancel original claims ²⁶1-35 and cancel amended claims 1-26 and rewrite them as new claims 36-51 as follows:

36. A method for reducing the allergen activity of rubber latex comprising incorporating an amount of starch in the rubber latex.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the amount of starch that is incorporated in the rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 50% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.

38. The method according to claim 36, wherein the amount of starch that is incorporated in the rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.